

## ABSTRACT

An image data processing method is provided to process image data encoded with the MPEG technique and including data groups (Pack\_V) each having an auxiliary recording area (AUX\_V) provided therein, led by an *I* or *P* picture and including a *B* picture. In the case of a recording medium having appended thereto an insertion data group (EditPack\_V\_h) including a copy picture and/or stuffing byte laid before a data group to be spliced in a first splicing, a second splicing is done with the insertion data group being separated and removed. In this second splicing, unnecessary stuffing and copy picture are removed, to thereby prevent degradation of image quality.